Ammanford Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health's

Report

For 1954.

"Amman Valley Chronicle," Ammanford.

Ammanford Urban District Council.

AMMANFORD,
JULY, 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the Year ending 31st December, 1954.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Dr. G M Herbert, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health.

Mr. L. Sunderland, M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District	944 Acres
Population (mid-year. 1954)	6,730
Number of Inhabited Houses	1,965
Number of Houses completed in the Urban during 1954:—	
(a) By the Council	18 houses
(b) By Private Building	5 houses
Rateable Value	£29,906
Net Product of Penny Rate	£111

VITAL STATISTICS.

Birth—

Live Births	Legitimate	46	37	83
	Illegitimate	2	0	2
		48	37	85

Birth Rate per 1,000 Population:—

Ammanford	12.63
Carmarthenshire	13.42
England and Wales	15.2

		M.	F.	Total
Still Births	Legitimate	3	0	3
	Illegitimate	0	0	0
		3	0	3

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births:—

Ammanford	34.09
Carmarthenshire	29.18
England and Wales	24.0

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.—

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	2	0	2
Illegitimate	1	0	1
	3	0	3

Deaths under 4 weeks:—

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	1	0	1
Illegitimate	1	0	1
	2	0	2

Death Rate of Infants per 1,000 Live Births:—

The Infant Mortality rate for England and Wales for 1954 was the lowest ever recorded for the Country—25.5 per, 1,000 Live Births.

The rate for Ammanford was higher than in 1953, as there was one more death and slightly fewer births.

Two of the deaths occurred within a week of birth—one due to congenital malformations and one to prematurity.

	Ammanford	Carmarthenshire	England and Wales
Under 1 year	35.29	30.05	25.5
Under 4 weeks	23.53	20.91	17.7

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no deaths from Pregnancy or Child-birth.

	Ammanford	Carmarthenshire	England and Wales
No. of deaths	0	2	478
Rate per 1,000 total births	0.00	0.8	0.69

CAUSES OF DEATHS IN 1954:—

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	3	1
Cancer	4	10
Intra-Cranial Vascular Disease	6	5
Coronary Disease	10	2
Heart Disease	4	2
Other Circulatory Diseases	2	1
Bronchitis	2	2
Pneumonia	1	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa	1	0
Nephritis	0	0

Influenza	0 ...	1
Diphtheria	0 ...	0
Diabetes	0 ...	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	0 ...	0
Motor Vehicle Accidents	0 ...	0
All Other Accidents	2 ...	3
Suicide	1 ...	0
Congenital Malformations	1 ...	0
Other Ill-defined Diseases	3 ...	3
All Causes	45	32

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS FROM CANCER:—

Site	Age Groups													
	30–40		40–50		60–65		65–70		75–80		Over 80		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Lungs and Bronchus				1		1			1				2	1
Pharynx									1				1	
Stomach ...						1		1		1				3
Breast ...		1		2				1						4
Other Sites ...			1									2	1	2
Total ...		1	1	3	1			2	2	1		3	4	10

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notications received during 1954—Total 25.

There were no Epidemics during the year, and only 25 cases of Notifiable Diseases occurred in the Urban Area.

CLASSIFICATION OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

	Ammanford U.D.C.	Carmarthen County
Measles	1	11
Scarlet Fever	7	63
Whooping Cough	13	222
Pneumonia	2	123
Poliomyelitis	1	3
Dysentery	1	152
Food Poisoning	0	5

Food Poisoning.—No cases were reported during the year.

DIPHTHERIA:—

For the eighth year in succession, no Diphtheria occurred in the Area.

Immunisation against Diphtheria:—

Seventy children under 5 years of age received the full course of inoculation against this disease either at the Infant Welfare Clinic or from their family doctor.

TUBERCULOSIS:—

Thirteen new cases were notified during the year compared with eight last year. Three of the cases in the older age groups were first notified after death. This emphasises the value of including the older age groups in the Mass Radiography Survey.

Unfortunately, this Unit did not visit the Town in 1954, but they have promised to do so in 1955.

There is now a permanent Mass Radiography Unit stationed at Trinity Place, Swansea (near the Central Police Station).

Classification of New Cases of Tuberculosis in Age Groups:—

Ages.	Respiratory. M.	Respiratory. F.	Non-Respiratory. M.	Non-Respiratory. F.
0—5 years		1		
10—15	1		1	
15—25	1	3		
25—30	2			
50—60	2			
60—70	1			
Over 80		1		
	7	5		1

Deaths from Tuberculosis.—

There were four deaths during the year—three male and one female.

	Case.	Deaths
A.U.D.C.	1.93 ...	0.59
C.C.C.	1.35 ...	0.27

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT.

During the year a number of visits were paid to persons reported to be in need of care and attention. Arrangements were made for some of these to receive Home Help Assistance, and this enabled them to remain in their own homes. Others were persuaded to enter Homes for the Aged voluntarily, but in one case it was necessary to take emergency action under the National Assistance Amendment Act, 1951. This man was removed to Abercennen, Ffairfach, but had subsequently to be admitted to Carmarthen Mental Hospital.

OVERSEAS STUDENTS.

A few of the Students holding Scholarships granted by the United Nations Organisation for the Social Science Course at Swansea University, again visited Ammanford for three weeks prior to commencing their studies, to observe local welfare and social services.

The Students and their Tutors expressed their appreciation for all the help they received from the Health Department.

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES.

The following Clinics are held at the County Clinc premises in High Street, Ammanford.

Ante-Natal Clinic—Thursday morning.
Post Natal—Alternative Thursday afternoons.
Infant Welfare—Alternative Tuesday afternoons.
Orthoædic—Monday.
Chest Cinic at 24, Quay Street—Tuesday mornings.

DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE FOODS.

National Welfare Foods, which were formerly distributed at the local Food Office, are now distributed at the Council Offices every afternoon from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

MIDWIVES.

There are two qualified Midwives practising in the area.

AMUBLANCE SERVICE.

A County Ambulance and Car is stationed in the Town.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Supply of Water for the District was again plentiful through out the year, and the Filters and Chlorination Plant have worked satisfactorily. On the whole, the supply was good and fairly regular The Joint Water Board is faced with abnormal pressure conditions, a wide variation of pressure as between day and night being inseparable from the present supply system.

The Water is sampled by the Joint Water Board. and reports are satisfactoy. The entire population is served direct.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Sewers have again functioned throughout the year without trouble. The system is by gravitation to the Disposal Works, and is under the control of the Amman Valley Joint Sewerage Board. It is now proposed to construct additional disposal facilities in order to prevent the overloading of the works which now occurs.

When this work has been done, there is no reason why our Sewers should not cope adequately with the growth of the Town.

RIVERS, ETC., POLLUTION.

During the year there has been no serious pollution of rivers in the district. The most serious source of pollution at present is the discharge of washery effluents from Collieries outside the Urban Area. These effluents are treated by subsidence before discharge, and when the tanks are kept clear of silt, the effluents are discharged in a fairly clean condition, but it does not appear that this is done sufficiently often.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The statistics in this matter are as follows:—

No. of Houses with Closets on the Water Carriage System connected to Sewers	1888
No. of Houses with Closets on the Water Carriage System connected to Cesspits, remaining to be connected to Sewers	3
No. of Houses with Closets built on the Conservancy System, not able to connect to Sewers	8
No. of Houses remaining to be connected	2

PUBLIC CLEANSING—DRY REFUSE.

The Council undertakes the removal of all Dry House Refuse, collection being made by the Council Lorry twice weekly from all parts of the Town. The Refuse when collected, is tipped at Myddynfych Farm and Rhydymaerdy. The Myddynfych tip is outside the Urban Area. Trade Refuse from Fruiterers' and Fishmongers' shops is disposed of by the Tradesmen by tipping on a farm near Bettws Mountain. In my opinion, immediately the supply position improves, steps should be taken to enforce the provision by householders of proper Dustbins, as all kinds of insanitary receptacles are now used. It has always been the exception to see a proper covered Dustbin in the streets of the Town, all kinds of boxes, tins and buckets being used for the purpose. Under the provisions of Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936, the provision of a proper covered Dustbin can be enforced.

PRIVIES, CESSPITS, ETC.

The contents of the remaining Pail Closets are buried by the Householders in their gardens, and the Cesspits, being built on the soakaway principle, no clearance is required, the subsoil being of a porous nature.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

No. of Inspections made for Nuisance ...	... 384
No. of Informal Notices served	... 71
No of Statutory Notices served	... Nil
No. of Water Leakage Inspections ...	... 94
No. of Water Leakage Notices	... 72

CAMPING SITES.

There are no Licences now in force. There do not appear to be any suitable site within the Urban Area

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was necessary under this head.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no Swimming Baths or Pools in the Urban Area.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No. of Council Houses found to be infested ...	... Nil
No. of other Houses found to be infested ...	... Nil
No. of Houses disinfested	... Nil

SCHOOLS.

There are five Schools in the Area and one Private School, and frequent visits are paid to them. The sanitary condition of the Schools is excellent, each being provided with modern sanitary conveniences connected to the Sewers, and with an abundant supply of Water from the

SPECIAL CLASSES OF PREMISES SUBJECT TO CONTROL OF LOCAL AUTHORITY.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the Area, nor are there any Registered Houses let in Lodgings.

HOUSING.

Inspection of Houses during the year:—

1.—(a) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for Housing Defects under Public Health or Housing Act ... 231

(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ... 294

2.—Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ... Nil

3.—Number of Houses found to be not in all respects fit for human habitation 64

Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice:

Number of Defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit during the year in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 37

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring Defects to be remedied ... 14

(2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were made fit after Service of Formal Notice 14

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Act:—

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring to be remedied 29

(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in which Defects were remedied after Service of Formal Notice 29

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936:—

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... Nil

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

No action was taken, as there are no Tenements or Underground Rooms occupied in the Area ... ... Nil

Housing Act, 1936—Part IV. Overcrowding:—

(a)—(1)	No. of Houses Overcrowded at the end of the year	17
(2)	No. of Families Dwelling therein	31
(3)	No. of Persons Dwelling there	152
(4)	No. of Houses occupied for the first tiue during 1954	23
(b)—	Number of new cases of Overcrowding reported during the year	3
(c)—(1)	Number of cases of Overcrowding relieved during the year	20
	Number of Families Dwelling therein	20

Good progress is still being made with the provision of new Houses.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF THE FOOD SUPPLY.

MILK.

Number of Cowsheds in the Urban Area	11
Number of Milk Shops in the Urban Area	Nil
Number of Inspections made	22

Four Retailers sell Pasteurised Milk, which is produced, treated and bottled outside the Area, and one sells T.T. Milk, also brought into the Area from outside.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Foodstuffs exposed for sale in the shops are regularly examined so as to protect the Public from the consumption of Unsound Food. The general quality is not of the same standard as in pre-War years, but this is probably true of all parts of the country.

From the date of de-control in July, one Slaughterhouse has been licensed.

The major portion of the meat consumed in the Town is purchased from Wholesale Butchers operating in other districts.

BAKEHOUSES.

Number of Bakehouses on the Register 6
Number of Inspections made 42

ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for the Area. No action was taken by the Local Authority in the matter.

HEALTH EDUCATION.

Particulars of any special work ... ... Nil

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of Houses fumigated after cases of Infectious Diseases 47

Free Disinfectants are supplied by the Council, and the rooms are fumigated with Formalin Vapour after the period of isolation is ended, or immediately the patient is removed to hospital. No facilities exist in the district for the cleansing of verminous persons or their goods.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Number of Factories on the Register 59
Number of Inspections made 236

All defects brought to the notice of Factory owners and managements were attended to.

CONTROL OF RATS AND MICE.

Work has continued on the control of the Rat population, the added powers given to Local Authorities under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act being of particular value.

Financial assistance is still given by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and, while this continues, work can be carried on without too great a financial burden being carried by the rates.

Large numbers of rats are destroyed by following up complaints received from householders.

During the year a County Committee was set up in Carmarthenshire in order to provide for liason between the various Authorities.

Your obedient servants,

G. M. HERBERT, M.O.H.

L. SUNDERLAND, Sanitary Inspector.